

31, 1990

Church News

of Latter-day Saints



eed for 122 mission presidents — see pages 8-9

Message of inspiration

While we feel the spirit of conference and while the words ring in our ears, let us determine how each of us can be doers of the word and not hearers only.

President Ezra Taft Benson
April 1988 General Conference

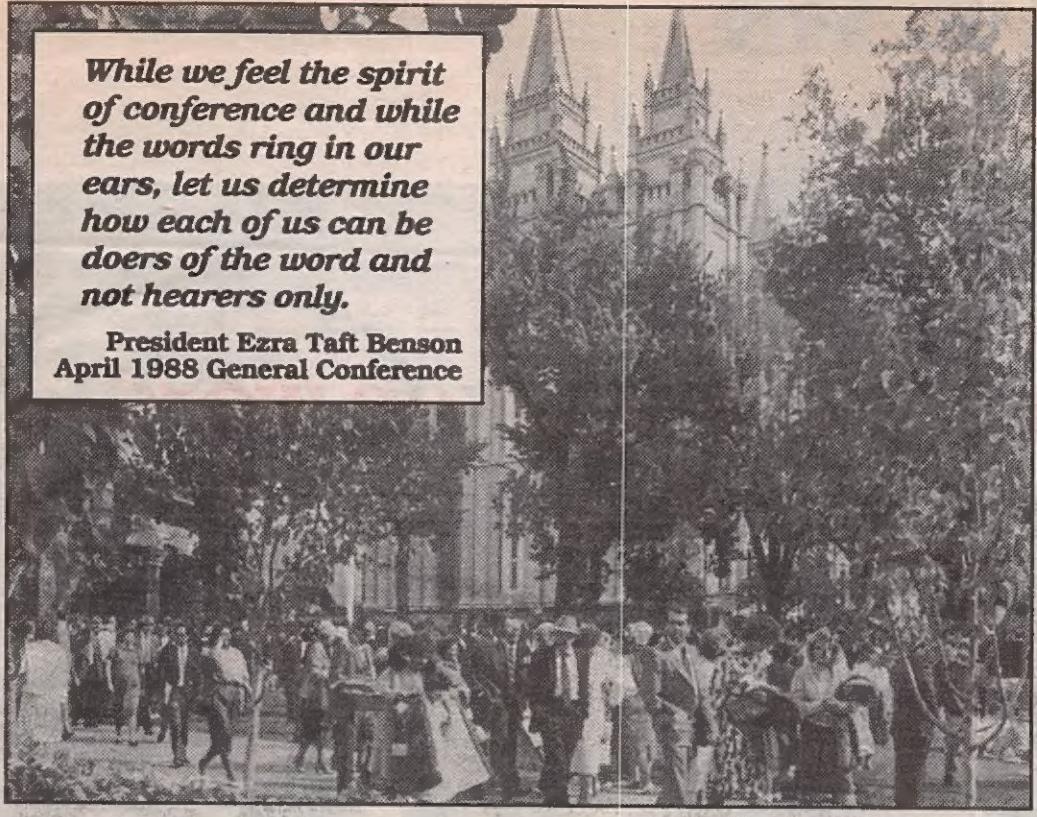


Photo by O. Wallace Kasteler

THIS WEEK IN

Church history

50 years ago

The April 6, 1940, Church Section of the *Deseret News* included a lengthy treatise reviewing the early history of the Church on the 110th anniversary of its founding by the Prophet Joseph Smith on April 6, 1830.

According to the Church Section article, "a few extracts from the Palmyra (New York) newspapers of that time reveal the low esteem in which the new society was held."

The story said that the first mention ever made in the press respecting the Book of Mormon appeared in Palmyra, N.Y., in the *Wayne Sentinel* on July 26, 1829, just a month before the publisher of that same paper — Egbert B. Grandin — signed the contract to publish the book.

In the July 26 issue of the paper the Book of Mormon title page was printed, along with an unflattering introduction to the work.

The newspaper called the book the "Golden Bible." It added that "most people entertain an idea that the whole matter is the result of a gross imposition and a grosser superstition. It is pretended that it will be published as soon as the translation is completed."

Thus was the Book of Mormon introduced to the world, prior to the printing of 5,000 copies by Grandin for \$3,000.

The Church Section story noted with some irony that the same newspaper issue that belittled the Book of Mormon also contained an editorial concerning the mysterious inhabitants of ancient America, many of whom had been exterminated in western New York.

Quote from the past

"If children have sinned against their parents, or husbands against their wives, or wives against their husbands, let them confess their faults one to another and forgive each other." — President Brigham Young, in a discourse delivered Nov. 9, 1856, in the old Tabernacle on Temple Square.

Question of the week

For what reason was general conference held on Sept. 6-8, 1850, a month earlier than usual?

(Answer on page 13)

About the cover

President Ezra Taft Benson and his counselors, President Gordon B. Hinckley and President Thomas S. Monson, shown in the Church Administration Building, are directing the proceedings of the 160th Annual General Conference.

With modern technology transmitting the conference to a worldwide audience on March 31 and April 1, the proceedings are being carried live in 16 languages to more than 2,600 meetinghouses throughout North America.

See story on page 3.

PHOTO BY DON GRAYSTON
DESIGN BY ROBERT NOYCE

Official policies and announcements

Priesthood leaders should urge members to participate actively in congregational singing. Occasionally assign sacrament meeting speakers to talk about the importance of worthy music and the value of singing hymns (see the "First Presidency Preface," *Hymns*, 1985, p. ix). Encourage everyone, whether musically inclined or not, to participate in singing....

Most meetings, including presidency, bish- opric, council, youth, leadership, preparation and training meetings, will benefit from singing an opening and often a closing hymn.

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